

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 0715Z 01 OF 02 101541Z

43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02 CU-02 AGR-05

HEW-04 HUD-01 INT-05 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05

COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-04 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

AS-01 /141 W

----- 046277

O R 101528Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1527

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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PAGE 02 LONDON 0715Z 01 OF 02 101541Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07152

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UN, UK

SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

REF: STATE 108167

1. WE DISCUSSED UK VIEWS ON MAJOR ISSUES RELATED TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE WITH MARQARET ROTHWELL, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (FCO), WHO ACTS AS UK HABITAT COORDINATOR. ACCORDING TO ROTHWELL, UK SHARES OUR GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH SECRETARIAT DRAFT WHICH CONFERENCE WILL DEBATE. ROTHWELL IS WELL AWARE OF US CONCERN OVER WORDING OF PARA II.6 OF SECRETARIAT DRAFT. AT THE MOMENT UK IS PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO GO ALONG WITH THIS LANGUAGE AS IT APPEARS TO BE THE MOST ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE ATTAINABLE.

2. ROTHWELL SAID IT IS POSSIBLE THAT UK MAY PROPOSE SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO DECLARATION. HER COLLEAGUES ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER ORDERING OF THE PRINCIPLES AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE PARA II.7 REWRITTEN INTO TWO SEPARATE AND MORE CLEARLY DEFINED PARAGRAPHS. FCO HAS ASKED UK UN MISSION TO TRY AND DETERMINE WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES WILL BE SUBMITTING AMENDMENTS PRIOR TO MEETING. WHETHER THIS IS BEING DONE AND THE CONTENTS OF THE PROPOSALS WILL DETERMINE WHETHER UK WILL INTRODUCE THEIR AMENDMENTS IN ADVANCE OR WILL WAIT TO DISCUSS THEM IN COMMITTEE. FINAL DECISION WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER DELEGATES WILL BE ALLOWED PROCEDURALLY TO SPEAK TO AMENDMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY TABLED. ROTHWELL SAID THE CONCERN IN SUGGESTING AMENDMENTS WILL BE TO RECAST ELEMENTS OF THE PREAMBLE AND THE DECLARATION IN GENERALLY MORE POSITIVE TERMS. IT IS HOPED THIS MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH THE SECRETARIAT.

3. ROTHWELL SAID UK SHARES IN PRINCIPLE OUR TOTAL OPPOSITION TO EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE CONTROVERSIAL, POLITICAL ISSUES. SHE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT UK RECOGNIZES THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LONDON 07152 01 OF 02 101541Z

IS GOING TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE IN PRACTICE. UK IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT IF THERE IS LACK OF PROGRESS AT UNCTAD IV, LDC BITTERNESS WILL SPILL OVER INTO HABITAT.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BASED ON PARA 5C REFTTEL, ROTHWELL SAID UK AGREES THAT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE TOO VAGUE AND EXPENSIVE. OVERSEAS

DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY (ODM) HAS REVIEWED GENERAL PROGRAM AREAS AND FOUND THESE TO BE "ABOUT RIGHT" AS FAR AS THEY GO. THEY AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL PROBABLY NOT GET VERY FAR IN DEFINING PRIORITY AREAS FOR FUTURE ATTENTION UNLESS A SUBCOMMITTEE IS SET UP TO DEAL WITH THIS QUESTION. ODM WILL MAKE IT CLEAR AT CONFERENCE THAT UK IS OPPOSED ON AID PHILOSOPHY GROUNDS TO CAPITAL FUNDING OF HOUSING PROJECTS AND SHOULD NOT BE CALLED ON TO SUPPORT THEM.

5. AGAIN UNDER PARA 5C REFTTEL, ROTHWELL SAID UK SHARES OUR CONCERNS OVER THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THEY ALSO SEE DEVELOPING INTO MAJOR CONFRONTATIONAL ISSUES. SHE SAID UK SHARES OUR OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF WHAT COULD BE DEFINED AS A NEW AGENCY. UK'S FIRST PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO PROVIDE AN INSTITUTIONAL HOME FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT (ESA) OF THE UN. ROTHWELL SAID RANK OF DIRECTOR AND SITE OF HEADQUARTERS SHOULD BE EASILY DECIDED AS CONSEQUENCE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF

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PAGE 01 LONDON 07152 02 OF 02 101539Z

43

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PAGE 02 LONDON 07152 02 OF 02 101539Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 07152

SUITABLE STRUCTURE. SHE SAID UK AGREES THAT THIS STRUCTURE SHOULD BE BASED ON AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY ALONG THE LINES OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WITH THE ADDITION OF TWO MORE COUNTRIES. THE LOCATION WOULD THUS LOGICALLY BE NEW YORK. UK ALSO AGREES WITH OUR VIEWS ON

ARE RETAINED AS A GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE ACTIVITIES ARE CLOSELY INTEGRATED INTO UN REGIONAL ECONOMIC MISSIONS.

6. ROTHWELL QUESTIONED LIKLIHOOD THAT NEW YORK WOULD BE CHOSEN AS SITE IN FACE OF MEXICAN OFFER AND WONDERED HOW FAR USG WOULD GO IN OPPOSING MEXICAN LOCATION. SHE INDICATED THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN UK THINKING ON LOCATION. UK WILL ATTEMPT TO REACH CONSENSUS ON SHAPE OF INSTITUTIONS WHILE TRYING TO KEEP LOCATION ISSUE AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE. IF NEW YORK IS UNACCEPTABLE, UK WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER OTHER LOCATIONS. VIENNA WAS MENTIONED AS AN ATTRACTIVE FALLBACK OR COMPROMISE LOCATION. IN ADDITION, UK EXPECTS KENYANS TO BE ACTIVE IN PUSHING NAIROBI. IF AS A COMPROMISE THE LDCS, WHO ARE

DIVIDED ON THIS ISSUE, UNITE BEHIND NAIROBI, LOGIC WOULD
DICTATE A SHIFT FROM ESA TO UNEP AS THE INSTITUTIONAL
HOME. UK OBJECTION TO MEXICAN LOCATION WILL BE BASED ON
UK POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO MOVING UN MEETINGS FROM UN
HEADQUARTERS CITIES.

7. ACTION REQUEST: ROTHWELL ASKED IF DEPARTMENT WOULD
PROVIDE ASAP LIST OF US DELEGATION TO HABITAT. SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PETER SHORE WILL NOT DECIDE
WHETHER TO ATTEND UNTIL HE LEARNS MAKE-UP OF US DELEGA-
TION. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS WHETHER SECRETARY HILLS
OR EPA ADMINISTRATOR TRAIN WILL ATTEND AND WHO WILL LEAD
DELEGATION. FCO IS ALSO INTERESTED IN LEARNING USG VIEWS
ON FUNDING OF FUTURE HUMAN SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES AND ANY
PROPOSALS USG MAY PLAN TO MAKE IN THIS AREA.

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PAGE 03 LONDON 07152 02 OF 02 101539Z

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 MAY 1976
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04 MAY 2006

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To: SECSTATE WASHDC BONN PARIS BRUSSELS STOCKHOLM THE HAGUE MOSCOW WARSAW
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